procurement of an additional 20000 MT by STC.

(d) Does not arise.

Chinese Trade Centre in India

446. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Chinese Government propose to open a Trade Centre in India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this respect has been entered into between the two countries; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) Yes, Sir. Mme Li Guo Hua, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China during her formal call on the Minister for Commerce in December, 1997 indicated that China intended to open a China Trade Centre in India.

(b) and (c) A Centre having the support of Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China is proposed to be opened by M/s. Jiangsu Overseas Enterprises Corporation, Hongkong, which has registered with the Reserve Bank of India to establish a 'China India Trade Investment Promotion Centre' in India. This Centre intends to provide trade and investment facilitation services to Chinese and Indian enterprises.

Policy commitments of World Trade Agreement

447. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a series of comprehensive changes in our policies and practices/systems in terms of our commitment to be honoured at World Trade Agreement and Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the changes pronounced in Exim Policy;

(c) the details of changes proposed/under consideration for protection for Intellectual Property Rights to create congenial atmosphere for promotion of international trade on sustainable basis; and

(d) by when, the review meeting is to take place and the status of our preparations for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) to (d) India is fully committed to assert its rights and meet its obligations as per the WTO Agreement. India's Trade Policy was reviewed in the WTO on 16-17 April, 1998, where the steps taken by India to liberalise its trade including removal of import restrictions on 340 tariff lines, were explained to WTO Members. India is availing transition period allowed under the TRIPS Agreement to bring its intellectual property rights regime in conformity with its provisions. India actively participates in all discussions in the WTO where Members' rights and obligations are discussed and, if necessary, reviewed.

Export of indigenous goods

448. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the items imported by the foreign companies in India on which customs duty has been reduced;

(b) whether as a result thereof the indigenous goods would be available at higher rates than the foreign goods;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt a concrete policy to boost export of indigenous goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) and (b) The customs duties have been reduced in successive budgets on a large number of items. There is no separate duty rate for foreign companies in India. Therefore, the question of separate list of items imported by foreign companies on which the duty has been reduced does not arise.